



Alabama State Conference of the NAACP

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June 15, 2011

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Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: GN Docket 11-65

Dear Commissioners:

The Alabama State Conference of the NAACP is proud to support the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile USA. We believe this merger will benefit communities, customers, and workers in our state. We believe it will help close the digital divide, and ensure that all citizens of Alabama benefit equally in the broadband future.

Wireless broadband has tremendous potential to revolutionize education, healthcare, e-government, and other industries. We will achieve this potential, however, only if companies are actually able to bring access to fast, reliable broadband to all parts of our state and nation. This is exactly what AT&T is promising to do in this merger. By deploying advanced wireless services all across Alabama, the merger will enable all parts of the state to benefit equally in the potential of wireless broadband to accelerate economic development. And, this merger will mark a major step on the road to the achievement of President Obama's vision of connecting all parts of America to the digital age.

As an organization working to advance minority interests and grow the quality of life in our state, we appreciate AT&T's demonstrated commitment to diversity in all aspects of its business. It has long played a leadership role in ensuring that African-Americans and other people of color are represented at all levels of its workforce, including management.

We have every reason to believe that this commitment will continue when it is allowed to join with T-Mobile, and what is more, that the jobs created by this transaction will benefit minority and union workers alike. As the only unionized telecommunications company, we are **confident that many of the jobs created to build out AT&T's next generation network—which** could total as many as 96,000 by one recent report—will be strong union jobs that include a high percentage of minority workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinion at the Federal Communications Commission. We look forward to your decision, and hope that it is one that seriously considers the potential benefits to minority Americans in Alabama and across our nation.

Sincerely,

Benard H. Simelton
President